

## CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A method of forming an axle assembly comprising the steps of:
  - a) providing a cylindrical hollow member having an end portion;
  - b) forming the end portion to provide a first generally circular end; and
  - c) welding a preformed kingpin boss to the generally circular end.
2. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of bending the hollow portion to a desired shape subsequent to step c).
3. The method according to claim 1, further including the step of inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to step b).
4. The method according to claim 1, wherein said step b) includes forming the end portion into a generally frustoconical shape.
5. The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section after said step a).
6. The method according to claim 1, further including the steps of:
  - a1) inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to said step b);and
  - a2) forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section prior said step b).

7. A method of forming an axle assembly comprising the steps of:
  - a) providing a cylindrical hollow member having an end portion;
  - b) forming the end portion to provide a kingpin boss; and
  - c) bending the hollow member to a desired shape
8. The method according to claim 7, further including the steps of forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section.
9. The method according to claim 7, further including the steps of:
  - a1) inserting a bulkhead into a cavity of the hollow member prior to said step b);and
  - a2) forming the hollow member into a generally polygonal cross-section prior said step b).
10. The method according to claim 7, further including the step of forming a multi-wall thickness length in the hollow member.